



## Responding to Your Concerns

Some of the best ideas for legislation come from local residents. Under current law, if a retail items rings up higher than its sticker price—it's free, up to a \$20 value. A Stamford resident pointed out this didn't apply to fresh produce, so we added that this year. Stamford residents also spoke up when outdated state regulations forced a local hospice facility to close. In spite of some opposition, we passed legislation allowing more hospices to open and provide end-of-life care in communities across the state.



## Saving Lives with Smoke Detectors

The tragic Stamford Christmas fire should serve as a reminder to all of us about the importance of having smoke detectors in our homes. New legislation I supported this year will require battery-powered smoke detectors to be placed in any occupied residential buildings undergoing renovations or additions. It will also require the state to conduct a public awareness campaign promoting the use of smoke detectors in all Connecticut homes.



## Stamford Transportation Center Garage & Station Upgrade

The Stamford Transportation Center is a gateway to New England and the second-busiest station on the entire Metro North Line. A major renovation of the Center will soon begin, making use of state, local and federal funds. New pedestrian bridges, passenger ramps, and waiting areas will be built, in addition to streetscape work and capacity improvements. The existing garage will be replaced to provide 1,000 parking spaces.



With Vietnam War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Paul "Bud " Bucha of Ridgefield at one of the annual Heroes 4 Hire career fairs that drew hundreds of veterans seeking employment.



In the middle of the 32-acre build-out for the NBC Sports studios and production facility within a portion of the former Clairol factory.



Your State Senator  
**Carlo Leone**

Representing  
the residents of  
Darien & Stamford

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Your State Senator

# Carlo Leone

## New Jobs in Stamford

I recently toured the new and expansive Chelsea Piers Connecticut sports complex (right) built within a major portion of the former Clairol factory in Stamford. In addition to the hundreds of construction jobs created to build the complex over the past year, more than 200 permanent, new full- and part-time jobs will be created to operate this unique complex.

I also took a tour of the future NBC Sports studios and production facility (below) being built next to Chelsea Piers Connecticut. A recipient of the "First Five" economic development program created by legislation I supported in 2011, the 32-acre location will house more than 450 employees and accommodate anticipated future growth.

Additionally, last fall I voted for bipartisan jobs legislation to help small businesses grow and hire new employees. In May, the Stamford Insurance Group, Inc. was awarded a matching grant under the bill in support of its plans to expand. The agency serves clients in multiple states, and the funds will be used for equipment, staff training, and marketing. As a result, 17 new jobs will be created and three more will be retained.



## JOBS

How do you improve on one of the most successful Connecticut job-creation and economic assistance plans ever devised?

You make it available to even more businesses and employees.

This year Senate Democrats expanded the Jobs Bill that we originally approved last October. That means:

- ▶ Extending incentives to thousands of additional small and medium size businesses which will lead to more state manufacturers hiring, buying, training and expanding;
- ▶ Additional job-training support for post-9/11 combat veterans through the expansion of our new state STEP Up Program;
- ▶ A 'Connecticut Made' marketing campaign that advertises and markets locally made products;
- ▶ And a stronger "First Five" business incentive program that gives preference to companies that move jobs from overseas back to Connecticut.

## RESOURCES

In addition to our work this session, last October we passed a bipartisan Jobs Bill to help small businesses and workers by improving access to capital, job training and education. This list of programs and contact information could benefit you or someone you know.

- ▶ **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org)
- ▶ **Small Business Express Package** to get funding for your small business: [www.decd.org](http://www.decd.org), or contact Michelle Lugo at 860-270-8052 or [michelle.lugo@ct.gov](mailto:michelle.lugo@ct.gov)
- ▶ **STEP Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: contact Rina Bakalar at the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, 860-263-6523 or [rina.bakalar@ct.gov](mailto:rina.bakalar@ct.gov)
- ▶ **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: [www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP](http://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP)
- ▶ **Job & Career Connection** for details on job and training programs: [www.ctjobandcareer.org](http://www.ctjobandcareer.org)

## Continuing to Work on Behalf of Veterans



### A Second Chance for Veterans

Military service is hard, especially for those who experience the stresses of combat. While transitioning back into civilian life, some veterans run afoul of the law. A measure I championed will now afford these veterans a second chance to participate in pretrial diversionary programs as an alternative to prison if they commit a non-violent offense. It will also broaden veterans' eligibility

for psychiatric disability and pretrial drug education programs.

### Desecration of War Memorials

As a people, we erect monuments to soldiers and their sacrifices. When someone desecrates a war memorial, they disrespect our veterans and all they fought for. To deter a recent spurt of this kind of vandalism, we imposed strict new penalties this year, including a fine of \$5,000.

### Fraudulent "Charities"

In recognition of their service, numerous charitable organizations collect donations and offer assistance to our veterans. In recent years fake veterans' charities have formed to scam generous donors. We took action to criminalize this despicable behavior this year. We also directed the Department of Veterans' Affairs to put together a list of reliable veterans' charities as a guide for donors.

## Education Reforms

This year I worked with teachers, education advocates and Governor Malloy to pass historic education reform. It provides for intervention, new strategies and increased support for children and families at high-need schools, including a \$920,000 increase in funding for Stamford schools.

Statewide, the new law provides: funding for 1,000 new early childhood slots; 20 new or expanded school-based health centers; K-3 reading programs; innovative approaches to teaching English Language Learners; and a fair and validated evaluation system to help teachers improve.

